

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9316
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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GENEVA PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS ENRG UK FR
SUBJECT: FRANCE-UK CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

REF: 77 PARIS 37572

1. PARIS PRESS MARCH 30 REPORTS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL CHARGED WITH FIXING THE FRANCE-UK CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY HAS JUST OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED ITS POSITION CONCERNING THE UK'S CONTESTATION OF AN ASPECT OF THE METHOD USED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN REACHING LAST SUMMER'S ARBITRAL DECISION. THE UK HAD QUESTIONED THE CARTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE EMPLOYED IN ACHIEVING THE DIVIDING LINES APPORTIONING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS IN THE CELTIC SEA, ENGLISH CHANNEL, AND CERTAIN AREAS OFF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

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2. THE TRIBUNAL IS SAID TO HAVE TERMINATED THE LITIGATION WITH A DECISION:
A) TO MODIFY SLIGHTLY ITS OFFSHORE CHANNEL ISLANDS TRACE IN A MANNER FAVORABLE TO THE BRITISH, VIZ: BY ADDING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY SQUARE KILOMETERS TO THE UK ZONE IN THIS REGION, AND
B) TO MAINTAIN ITS PREVIOUS DECISION REGARDING THE

TRACE ESTABLISHED IN THE CELTIC SEA (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS).

3. THE FRENCH FELT THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE UK'S CONTESTATION OF LAST SUMMER'S DECISION BY THE TRIBUNAL HAD BEEN TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER INTO THE BRITISH ZONE OF ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED SQUARE KILOMETERS OF CELTIC SEA SHELF IN AN AREA SUPPOSEDLY HAVING PROMISING OIL EXPLORATION PROSPECTS. SINCE THE TRIBUNAL HAS APPARENTLY NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPTED THE UK ARGUMENT THAT ITS CELTIC SEA TRACE CONTAINED A QUOTE CARTOGRAPHER'S ERROR UNQUOTE, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE PRESS HERE IS QUOTING QUAI LEGAL DIRECTOR DE LACHARRIERE AS SAYING FRANCE IS SATISFIED WITH THIS LATEST DECISION WHICH IT CONSIDERS FAVORABLE TO THE FRENCH POSITION.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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